

## **Introduction: The Ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - Symposium**

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# **SYMPOSIUM: THE RATIFICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS**

## **INTRODUCTION**

On February 25, 1993, the *DePaul Law Review* presented *A Symposium: The Ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by the United States*. This issue contains articles by respected speakers exploring the June 1992 ratification.

Appropriately, DePaul University College of Law is the home of the International Human Rights Law Institute. The Institute advocates the enforcement of human rights everywhere, most recently by studying Bosnian war crimes for the United Nations. With the help of the Institute and Dean John C. Roberts, this Symposium was possible.

After the ratification of the Covenant, we seized an opportunity to provide an in-depth discussion of the Covenant's implementation and ramifications. Ratified twenty-six years after its adoption by the United Nations, the Covenant raises many questions that our contributors explore, including the ratification debate, the issue of non-self-execution, and the Covenant's requirements. The many reservations, declarations, and understandings included in the U.S. adoption of the treaty are the source of much concern in these discussions. These viewpoints will demonstrate the significance of the Covenant as well as expose the areas where the U.S. adoption of the Covenant fails to improve international human rights concerns here in the United States.

Our participants agree that ratification is a positive step in the sphere of international human rights but articulate concerns about U.S. implementation and adherence. Possibly one of the most important human rights treaties, the Covenant represents the recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family. With this important nucleus, the

Covenant is an agreement the import of which has only begun to be discovered here in the United States.

The Volume 42 Editorial Board wishes to thank our contributors for making the Symposium a successful one.

*Kathryn A. Kelly*  
Symposium Editor